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Agenda item 4

CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATIONS

Report of the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties

Introduction

1. In accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, "the credentials of representatives as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat if possible not later than 24 hours after the opening of the session. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization."

2. Furthermore, rule 22 of the rules of procedure provides that "the Bureau of any session shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties for decision."

3. The present report is submitted to the Conference of the Parties in the light of the foregoing.

Examination of credentials

4. On 25 November 1999, the Bureau met to examine the credentials submitted by Parties to the Convention.

5. The Bureau had before it a memorandum dated 16 November 1999 from the Executive Secretary on the status of credentials of representatives participating in the Conference. The information contained in this memorandum is reflected below.

6. As noted in the memorandum of the Executive Secretary, formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided for in rule 19 of the rules of procedure, have been received by the secretariat for the representatives of the following 60 Parties participating in the Conference: Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan,

Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Niue, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

7. As of 24 November 1999 credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided for in rule 19 of the rules of procedure, have been received by facsimile or photocopy for the representatives of the following 18 Parties participating in the Conference: Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Canada, Chile, China, Comoros, Egypt, Gambia, Greece, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Kuwait, Palau, Saint Lucia, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen.

8. As noted further in the memorandum, information concerning the appointment of representatives participating in the Conference has been communicated to the secretariat by means of facsimile or photocopy in the form of letters or notes verbales from ministries, embassies, permanent missions to the United Nations or other government offices or authorities, or through local United Nations offices, by the representatives of the following 10 Parties participating in the Conference: Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guyana, Honduras, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Peru.

9. The President proposed that the Bureau should accept the credentials of all the representatives mentioned in the memorandum of the Executive Secretary, on the understanding that formal credentials for the representatives referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 above would be communicated to the secretariat as soon as possible. The Bureau accepted the proposal and agreed to submit the present report and the following draft decision to the Conference.

Draft decision submitted by the Bureau

Approval of the report on credentials

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the report on credentials of the Bureau of the third session of the Conference of the Parties and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report on credentials submitted by the Bureau of the third session of the Conference of the Parties.